

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: ETRN, UNCTAD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD CONFERENCE ON A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
LINER CONFERENCES

FOLLOWING LETTER DATED MARCH 15, 1974, ADDRESSED TO
RAYMOND J. WALDMANN FROM SENATOR RUSSELL LONG. PLEASE
ADVISE REGARDING DESIRABILITY AND OUTLINE OF REPLY.

"DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

"I REGRET THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO CANCEL THE BRIEFING ON
THE UNCTAD CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES WHICH WAS
SCHEDULED BY THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE FOR FEBRUARY 26,
1974. I BELIEVE THAT A FULL DISCUSSION OF HOW THE
NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS CODE HAVE DEVELOPED AND WHAT LIES
AHEAD WOULD HAVE BEEN FRUITFUL FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMERCE
COMMITTEE. PERHAPS OUR REACTIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL
TO YOU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION.

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"AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE I HAVE FOLLOWED THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS CODE. NOW THAT THE SCHEDULED CONCLUDING SESSION IS UNDERWAY I AM MOST DISTRESSED TO HEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES POSITION IS THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT CARGO SHARING BASED ON A RIGID MATHEMATI-

CAL FORMULA. IN MY JUDGMENT SUCH A POSTURE IS CLEARLY CONTRARY TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST.

"THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT OF 1970, PROPOSED TO THE CONGRESS BY PRESIDENT NIXON, HAS PUT THE UNITED STATES-FLAG LINER FLEET IN A SUPERIOR POSITION OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT. TO STAND ALONE IN THE WORLD AGAINST HIS CODE WILL SURELY DRIVE OUR SHIPS ONTO THE SHOALS OF BANKRUPTCY AND ELIMINATE OUR FLEET FROM THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD.

"I STRONGLY URGE THAT YOU REVIEW THE POSITION YOUR DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN ON THIS ISSUE AND CONSIDER THE IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON UNITED STATES-FLAG OPERATORS. AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETINGS IN GENEVA I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE A FULL BRIEFING ON THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. SINCERELY YOURS, RUSSELL LONG." KISSINGER

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